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Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 11:07 AM
To: Chartier, George
Subject: Letter to USDA.doc

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Sirs

In regard to the request by the USDA for additional input on the representative period for the proposed Hop Marketing Order, I would first like to state that I am personally opposed to any marketing order.

I believe that market forces should dictate the price of a commodity, not a government quota on supply. Furthermore, as evidenced in the past, if the USA reduces its acreage of Hops, the European growers are more than willing to take our market share by increasing their Hop acreage.

I also believe that the proposed marketing order will only allow the larger growers to become larger and the smaller growers will be given an exit strategy so that they can satisfy the lending institutions they are indebted to.

However; if we are forced to participate in a marketing order, then I would like the representative period become the average alpha produced in the last 3 years of production or the highest alpha production during one of the last 3 years.

Sincerely,

Reed Batt
Wilder Farms
Wilder, Idaho